

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Current Use of Cocaine by High School Students
Justification	Cocaine use can result in serious negative health consequences and is highly addictive. Physical symptoms may include chest pain, nausea, blurred vision, fever, muscle spasms, convulsions, and coma. Death from a cocaine overdose can occur from convulsions, heart failure, or the depression of vital brain centers controlling respiration.
Definition	Percent of students in grades 9 through 12 reporting any use of cocaine within the past 30 days
Data Source	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Frequency	Biennial
Geographic Levels	National and State
Demographic Categories	Grade Level, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity
Strengths	<p>A cocaine-specific measure provides more useful information for purposes of prevention planning and monitoring than a single global measure of illicit drug use. YRBSS estimates are typically based on larger samples than the National Survey of Drug Use and Health, and can be further broken down by grade level, gender, and race/ethnicity. Some states also collect YRBSS data for individual communities or school districts, which can be compared with their state-level data.</p>
Limitations	<p>Prevalence rates for current use of cocaine among high school students are relatively low and may be unstable due to small numbers of users. As of 2003, weighted representative samples were available for only 32 states. Not all states participate, and some participating states do not provide representative samples. YRBSS is a school-based survey, so students who have dropped out of school are not represented. It is also subject to bias due to self-report, non-coverage (refusal by selected schools to participate), and non-response (refusal/no answer).</p>